

RIGHT IN!

MAY 1979

During our recent local election campaign, ECHO sent letters to the main party candidates in Whoberley and Earlsdon, inquiring as to what they would hope to accomplish if elected to represent their respective wards.

We received only three replies, so these are the ones that we are printing here:

LEN HILTON

Conservative councillor for Whoberley ward since 1975

"Firstly, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our community newspaper. The words that follow are based upon my belief that the balance of power within society must be restored in favour of the people, on the understanding that the days of magic formulas and lavish promises are over.

"We must support family life by helping people to become home-owners, raising the standard of their children's education, and concentrating welfare services on the old, the sick, the disabled and those in real need.

"I want a large part of the circulation area of ECHO to be declared as a General Improvement Area.

"As your Councillor, I have worked on hundreds of cases for people with problems, and these I would continue to see as my most challenging and rewarding tasks."

KEITH HALLAM

Labour Candidate, Whoberley ward

"Coventry has a good record on Housing compared to other English cities, with the widespread granting of Council mortgages and Home Improvement Grants to our credit. However, there is still widespread dissatisfaction amongst citizens about both the standard and number of available dwellings.

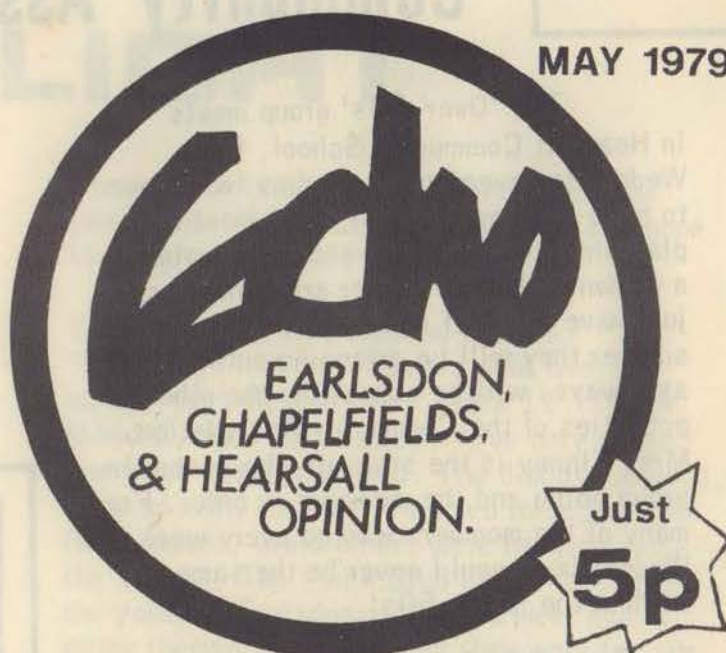
"By the time you read this, you will know whether I have been elected to the City Council, and, if elected, I shall, along with the other Labour Councillors, attempt to deal with the symptoms of the housing problems."

LUCIA MURPHY

Liberal Candidate, Earlsdon ward

"Having lived in the ward for over ten years, I am concerned that Earlsdon continues to be a thriving community. The new Youth Club at Broadway School shows the Earlsdon spirit.

"If elected to the City Council, my main concern



will be Earlsdon. Why don't we have a local supermarket? Why don't we have a local comprehensive? What about the houses? Most of them are solidly built but none of them get any younger. In not very many years time we could well have several Starley Roads in Earlsdon. Now is the time to ensure Earlsdon's survival."

x x x x x

As you will know by now, Councillor Hilton, who has served the Whoberley ward for the last four years, has been re-elected. We hope that Councillor Hilton will look at the other views expressed, and see, as we did, that all the candidates wished the best for the community.

We feel that Mr. Walker ought to take a leaf out of Councillor Hilton's book by realising the importance of the contact achieved by working within his ward.



Len Hilton



Stan Walker

Unfortunately, we can print no such statement of intent from Stan Walker, Conservative, who was elected for the Earlsdon ward, as he did not reply to our letter.

*THE CO-OP ~
latest news - see back page*

Community Association News

The 'Over-50s' group meets in Hearsall Community School. Each Wednesday evening, the ladies (who seem to have frightened off the men) meet to play bingo, run a bring-and-buy, watch a demonstration of flower arranging, or just have a social occasion. In the summer they will be arranging outings and, as always, will be supporting the other activities of the Community Association. Mrs. Finney is the stalwart who keeps the group going and the members in order. For many of the members who go every week, Wednesdays would never be the same without the 'Over-50s'.

The Community Association arranged the booking of premises. One of the committee, Pauline Smith, helped get the group off the ground. After that, they were encouraged to run their own affairs the way they wanted.

So any people are welcome to approach the Community Association. We offer support but not interference. We may not be experts, but we're on your side. The point of a Community Association is that together we may achieve more than if we all try to operate entirely separately. The local authority likes us to be separate; that way it can ignore us or make plans without fear of too much public dissension.

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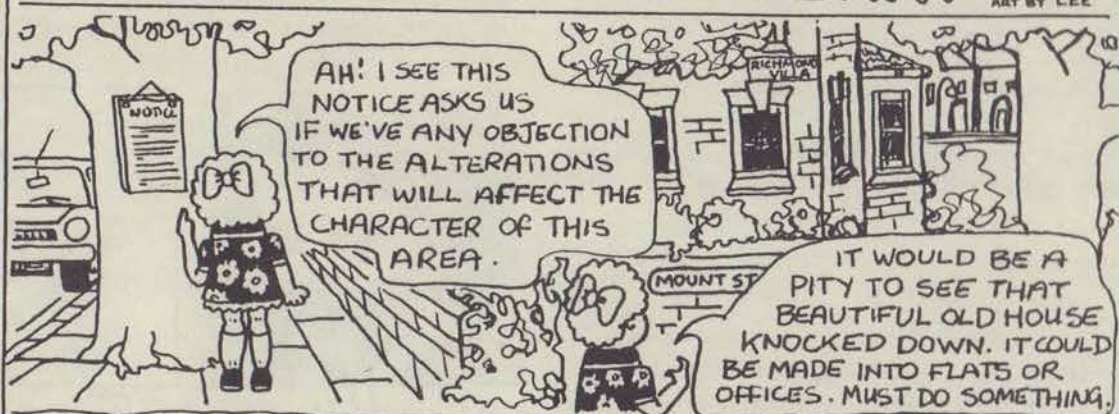
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SOME DAYS LATER



WEEKS LATER



SPOTLIGHT

BROADWAY YOUTH CLUB

Broadway Youth Club opened in the old school hall on January 12th after a long campaign for community use of the school facilities. It is run by a committee of fifteen, including two of the older girls, and various regular helpers. The Club now has 240 registered members, most of whom are aged between twelve and sixteen and pay only 5p per week for all the facilities.

Even with the use of two large adjoining rooms at the school, the Youth Club is cramped for space now, particularly at the monthly discos, which are very popular. The Club is open every Friday night from 6.30 to 8.00 pm for the 7 - 11 year-olds and from 8.00 to 10.00 pm for the 12 - 16 year-olds. They can enjoy playing video games, pool, table tennis, darts and a wide variety of table games. The Youth Club has its own record player and records and the members can enjoy soft drinks and food from the tuck shop.

Activities are growing all the time. A sponsored walk on Easter Monday raised funds for an outing to a Safari Park and there has recently been a knock-out pool competition. The Club has two well-supported football teams and

among other things they are planning to put two floats into the Coventry Carnival and hope to organise a cricket team shortly.

So what do the kids think of all this?

"It's great! I've been coming right from the start." says Debbie Berry, aged 11. Trevor Madden, aged 12, agreed, "I've only missed one week since it started. The discos are good." Like so many children, he used to be bored at home before, while others were hanging round the streets. The Youth Club has at last given the youth of Earlsdon a place to meet and to enjoy themselves in the way they want to.

The Committee have had to overcome many obstacles in the past and they hope the Education Department will let them use the two rooms additionally for a playscheme in the summer holidays. Until the end of June, however, the Youth Club will be at Earlsdon School on Friday nights as usual.

On behalf of the Broadway Youth Club Committee, Mrs. Randle (President), Mr. Goldie (Vice-President), Mr. Hughes (Treasurer), Mrs. Goldie (Secretary), Mrs. Kenny (Catering) and Mrs. Gamble (Subscriptions Secretary) would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the Club a success.



Earlsdon, Chapelfields, & Hearsall

The beginnings and the growth of Earlsdon, Chapelfields and Hearsall are more than fascinating; they are part of our own local history that we should all strive to maintain.

Coventry was grossly overcrowded by the mid-19th century. Grazing rights on the Lammas and Michaelmas lands, reserved for the Freeman and owned mainly by wealthy landowners meant that little building land was available. But gradual inroads began with the development of Hillfields 'New Town' in the 1820's, largely occupied by ribbon weavers.

Chapelfields, taking its name from the mediæval leper hospital, was started in 1846. Craven St., Lord St., Mount St., Duke St. and Allesley Old Road housed the watchmakers, with corner sites reserved for the larger houses of the 'masters'. Much of Chapelfields' original character remains, with the large workshops at the

History of the Area

rear of some 'masters' houses and smaller ones in almost every other house.

The growing political aspirations of working men, together with the housing crisis, led to the creation of the Coventry Freehold Land Society in 1848. This meant that working men could gain the vote through the ownership of property. One of its estates was Earlsdon, again intended mainly for watchmakers. But other small industries came later; Earlsdon Nail Works in Moor Street was one of the earliest, about 1880. Cycle and motor-cycle manufacturers had premises here and Earlsdon's very own car, the 'Clarendon', was made in Moor Street.

The area became popular as housing developed. But the real growth came after 1890 when Earlsdon was included in Coventry. Albany Road was opened in 1898, the tramway came in 1905. The industrial boom led to massive developments between 1900 and 1914. Broomfield Farm gave way to Broomfield Road in 1903 and then the other roads in Hearsall.

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OPINION

The Area's Future in the Hands of the Planners.

Coventry planners have already completed much survey work in their deliberations about the future of the area. Information has been gathered to include housing, shopping, industry and playspace. This will form the background to decisions that could affect us all significantly.

The plan is not likely to be a grand affair with formal announcements and public enquiries as happened recently in Foleshill. This would take a long time (longer than usual!) and would only be concerned with land-use - in other words the locations of houses, shops, schools etc. The informal approach being adopted could enable much wider issues to be considered, such as how best to improve housing, what sort of shops do we want, what use could be made of redundant schools, etc. But that will only happen if local people have a chance to take part in deciding the area's future, or we shall be left with a damp squib.

In the early 1980's the Craven Street area is likely to be declared a Housing Action Area (HAA) and the remainder of the area as a series of General Improvement Areas (GIA's). In the Housing Action Area, grants for house improvement would be available for 75-90% of what is called 'eligible expenditure'. This could mean a maximum grant of £4,500 where hardship can be demonstrated. You would also qualify for up to £77 to improve the curtilage of houses in an HAA eg. front walls. In a GIA, house improvement grant is based on the lower rate of 60% of eligible expenditure, up to a maximum of £3,000. But the Council will also carry out environmental improvements to the value of £300 x the number of dwellings in the GIA. Elsewhere in the City, this has included traffic management schemes, play

areas, landscaping and improvements to jetties and entries. In both GIA's and HAA's temporary rent free accommodation would be available while work is carried out, and a loan from the Council would be available for the owner's share of the improvement costs.

One priority area is central Earlsdon - the village. A mixed area of housing, shopping, entertainments and industry, it is an interesting area, the focus of much activity. The variety in Earlsdon is perhaps most important of all and the village is likely to be the first place to benefit or suffer in the planners' hands.

As well as a General Improvement Area, industrial and commercial areas can now be declared as 'Improvement Areas' (bureaucracy is very confusing, isn't it?). Grants and loans would be available for businesses to improve amenities and refurbish or extend premises, the aim being to serve local employment. This is very much applicable to the industry and shops in Earlsdon. A joint declaration of a GIA for the houses and Improvement Area for industry and commerce could draw people together to discuss what the future of the village should be, rather than to wait until it has been decided for us.

The Community Association hopes to promote meetings between residents and business people and in the meantime inquiries about the Housing Action Area should be made to the Environmental Health Services (25555 Mr. Hodgson) and about the General Improvement Areas to the GIA Team (27600 ext. 25 - Mr. Butcher) Other enquiries should be made to the department of Architecture and Planning (25555 Mr. Hodgkinson) or through your local ward councillor.

ECHO SNIPPETS

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DAILY MINIBUS SERVICE
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HEARSALL COMMON, HIGHLAND ROAD,
EARLSDON LIBRARY, BELVEDERE ROAD.
£3-£3.50 PER CALENDAR MONTH
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Contact: Graham Partidge,
Earlsdon Library.

SENIOR CITIZENS WELCOME
Join The Garden House
Club.
It meets on Thursdays at 1.45pm
in St Barbara's church hall
Contact Mrs. F.S. Cotton,
45, Ainsbury Rd. Tel 74857

Pop your Snippets
into the
ECHO BOX,
Earlsdon Library.

Broadway Youth Club Appeals for:-
* Indoor/outdoor sports equipment.
* Volunteers, with transport, for
swimming and football trips.
* Experienced sports organisers.

Mothercare pram
I.O.B., accessories
£20
Mrs Richardson
34 Poplar Road.

Young Ideas

Draw a picture. Look out
your back window and
draw what you see.



All entries will be displayed in Earlsdon Library

ABOUT "ECHO"

A success. That's the verdict on ECHO after its first issue in April. However, the opinions were by no means unqualified. "too much about shops" was one comment, "not punchy enough" was another. You can't please everyone and we know we never shall, but we certainly will take all your comments into account. The encouraging thing was how quickly the 1000 copies of our first edition were taken up. We are printing 2000 of this issue. At 5p per copy, you have to buy all of them for our production costs to be covered. So if you are one of the many people who said that ECHO is an important newcomer, make sure that everyone who lives in Earlsdon, Chapelfields or Hearsall forks out the fivepence for one. ECHO is available from most local newsagents and other shops displaying an ECHO poster. An ECHO box in the library will accept your letters, snippets, ads and articles. Adverts are £2.50 per column inch and can also be accepted via the ECHO box in the library.

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Summer Fayre.

This year, instead of their usual Summer Fete, St. Mary Magdalen's are holding a large Summer Fayre on Saturday 19th May on All Souls' School Playing Field, Abercorn Road.

A wide variety of attractions include a tug o' war, displays of gymnastics and dog obedience and music from the 5th Coventry Scout Band. There will be plenty to amuse everyone, with donkey rides, punch and judy, a miniature steam train, tombola, treasure hunt and a number of side shows.

A successful event will help to raise money towards the completion of the temporary west end of the Church.

Falling Walls - Good Neighbours -

The Earlsdon Voluntary Action Group (Good Neighbour) has, so far, been able to help a dozen families by putting them in touch with reputable builders who have quoted very reasonable prices; we will be checking to see if they are satisfied with the work. We have found several cases of old folk having panicked upon receiving notices and accepting the first estimate given. An elderly couple were charged £130 for a job that need only have cost £80.

If you are doing your own repairs, pointing up a wall is cheap and easy but it can be dangerous because it only covers up the faults. Above all, please check the foundations. If you want advice or a second opinion, the Action Group will be pleased to help, at no charge.

My thanks to all the Group for helping the elderly in Earlsdon. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact me on Coventry 70842.

Jim King, Earlsdon Voluntary Action Group.

~~~~ and Bad!

A case has come to light of a wall which has fallen down probably due to vibration caused by lorries driving up a wide entry to a small factory at the back of Stanway Road. The factory management were very unsympathetic to the old lady involved and refused to help clear bricks from the entry unless a payment was made. It is sad to find such a contrast to the constructive efforts of the Earlsdon Voluntary Action Group.

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SHOPPING

A SUPERMARKET FOR EARLSDON

Members of the E.C.H.O. Editorial Committee have met the Coventry Co-op's Chief Executive Mr. Charlton and Officials to find out the future of the Co-op in Earlsdon.

In short, the redevelopment will see the site of the present Co-op buildings in Earlsdon St. between the Albany Social Club and Dewhurst's as a single supermarket of some 6,000 sq. ft. (about 6 times the size of the present grocery section). This will offer a range of goods, mainly food, and including selected items of menswear, hardware, china and glass, wines and spirits, and possibly electricals. Wet fish will in future be sold through the butcher's shop. The Co-op hope to have the new store open by Christmas although the existing grocery section on the corner will NOT be closed down until the new store is operational.

The saga of the Co-op and its plans for redevelopment of the Earlsdon store go back some 10 years, with a major problem being that of access to the site for loading and unloading. However, as we reported in our last issue, they now have outline planning permission and the detailed plans will be submitted shortly. That, of course, is only the beginning; afterwards will come all the site activity of borings, demolition, levelling and so on and finally rebuilding. In response to local concern about what is happening to the Co-op here, which we made very clear to them, they agreed to display the information on the redevelopment in the window of the closed down section until the demolition men move in.

The Co-op are clearly investing a great deal of money in their Earlsdon store and they see the return on that investment in terms of 10 to 15 years. This is a measure of their faith in the attraction and stability of Earlsdon as a shopping centre. We think this confidence is well placed and bodes well for the future of Earlsdon.

PANDORA'S BOX

This interesting shop, selling pinewood goods and wall tiles, opened at the bottom of Broomfield Road on January 12th and now has normal shop hours but is closed on Mondays.

The quality and range of goods is impressive and reasonably priced. You can buy almost anything in pine from small household utensils to a complete range of kitchen furniture including dressers, chairs, tables and cupboards. Hattie Bennett, one of the proprietors, points out that although the goods come from all over the world, some, such as egg racks and candlestick holders, are made in Coventry and a Birmingham craftsman will produce furniture to customers' specifications. There is also a large range of wall tiles in stock, some of which are highly unusual.

PUBCRAWL

Nº.1 The Craven Arms, Chapelfields.

It was early Thursday evening when we visited the Craven Arms on the corner of Lord Street and Craven Street so the lounge was fairly empty. The lounge looked clean and well kept, and, having noticed the sign outside - 'Wines supplied by Stowells of Chelsea' - one of our party ordered a dry white wine. The barman looked stunned and said, "I don't think we have any wine."

"Never mind, I'll have a dry sherry," she replied.

He rattled through some bottles, pulled one out and said, "Is this dry sherry?"

He smiled and we couldn't help smiling too.

The beer, although keg, was quite pleasant, and the cheese batch was pronounced excellent.

The landlady, Mrs. Hazel Clifford, has recently been widowed, but has now taken over the tenancy from her late husband.

Hazel Clifford said that her crowd were close-knit regulars who didn't really like strangers in their pub, however the atmosphere seemed very friendly and we all agreed that Mrs. Clifford was doing a very good job despite her recent bereavement.



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